

MARBLE GAME BAN BECOMES LAW

Council Oks Budget, Salary Hike

Council Adopts Ordinance 4-1



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SECOND YEAR

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 1950

54

No. 18

3c

Largest Circulating Newspaper or Combination Newspapers in the Torrance Trading Area. 11,190 CIRCULATION

\$1.12 TAX RATE SET FOR YEAR

All city employees were given a blanket \$10 a month raise in salary Tuesday night by the City Council as it adopted the budget for the fiscal year.

The raise preceded adoption of the budget when it was explained that funds had been provided for the increase.

The tax rate was set at \$1.12 per \$100 assessed valuation. The \$14,500 contemplated shortage in the budget due to the loss of some \$1,600,000 assessed valuation under early estimates was ordered spread into all departments.

The \$20,000 bus deficit fund remained in the budget. Revenues are estimated at \$762,895, plus a carry-over fund of \$105,000 which will be used for the public improvement program. This makes the total expenditures including the public works program amount to \$867,895.

The tax rate of \$1.12 will be made up as follows: General fund, 95 cents; up two cents; employees retirement, 13 cents; down two cents; library, 4 cents, the same as last year.

Estimate of revenues for the year are:

Taxes:	
Current	\$470,520
Delinquent	5,000
Interest and penalties	2,000
Business Licenses	57,000
Bicycle Licenses	250
Liquor Licenses	7,000
Permits:	
Building	21,000
Plumbing	8,500
Electric	5,500
Sewer	2,500
Moving	125
Variances, etc.	1,000
Court Fines:	
General	16,000
Vehicle Act	24,000
Motor Vehicle License	54,000
Fees	54,000
Miscellaneous Refunds	4,500
Auditorium	200

(Continued on Page Two)

After dilly-dallying with the ordinance for more than a month, the city law to ban marble games was finally adopted by the City Council Tuesday night.

Thus Torrance joins nearly every other California city in outlawing the games because of their use for gambling purposes and because children are allowed to play them.

Councilman Willys Blount brought up the ordinance as a delegation of ministers and parent-teacher representatives sat in the audience of the Council meeting prepared to press for passage of the ordinance.

Councilman Harvey Spelman then seconded the motion and it was adopted by a four to one vote, Councilman Nick Drale dissenting.

Drales explained later that he is against all forms of gambling, but that he did not believe the marble games were the evil they were declared to be by proponents of the ordinance.

However, operators are preparing to remove the machines from their places of business, because their continued use after the ordinance becomes effective will be a violation of the law.

Torrance is one of the last cities to ban the games. Long Beach was one of the first, followed closely by Los Angeles.

Los Angeles County allowed the games to run for years after they were banned by Los Angeles city, but they were the source of such open gambling that they were banned from County areas.

NEW FIRE STATION BUDGETED

Construction of a new fire station and conversion of the present main station into a police department building are provided for in the public improvement program included in the budget adopted by the City Council Tuesday night.

The budget submitted to City Manager Stevens provided \$50,000 for the new fire station and \$25,000 for converting the old station to police use.

Other items are: Complete buildings under construction at El Retiro, North Torrance, the storage room and recreation office, \$6500.

Install new street signs and automatic signals at five points, \$9500. Recreation projects, \$14,000.

Gardena Postal Raid Ignored by Agencies

Two local agencies which are more inconvenienced than all others by the mixed up postal service of Torrance (as bad as the telephone service) are doing nothing to straighten it out.

As Gardena post office slyly attempts to "raid" the Northeast Torrance areas now served by Torrance post office, nothing has been done to prevent the steal by either the City of Torrance or Torrance Unified School District, it was revealed by questioning of officials of both the municipality and the schools by the Press.

Thus, if it is necessary to change the addresses of hundreds of Torrance residents in the area from "Torrance, Calif." to "Gardena, Calif." it will be because patrons of the areas involved have not been properly informed by the city and the schools as to the inconvenience of the address.

Particularly at election time is inconvenience noticeable, and much official and other mail never reaches the addresses in time because those sending the mail are not advised as to which post office the mail should be sent.

Parts of Torrance are served by Lomita, Gardena and Redondo Beach post offices, and it takes an expert to figure it out, postoffice officials say.

The Chamber of Commerce has asked Congressman King to stop the transfer of Torrance territory to Gardena, while Postmaster Clara Conner is carrying on her late husband's campaign to get all Torrance territory into Torrance postal service.

So. Torrance Roadwork Nears Finish

The narrow, dusty "country roads" of South Torrance are slowly becoming "city streets", or at least surfaced country roads.

City crews are busy winding up grading and surfacing of 235th, 237th and 238th streets, east of Normandie avenue, and Walnut avenue has been paved to the city line.

Cabrillo (or Eshelman avenue) again has been surfaced to the southern line.

In another part of the area, Los Angeles street department has opened up a number of streets entering Western avenue from the shoestring strip, just north of Sepulveda boulevard. A few years ago, this shoestring strip area, which has been enhanced in value by the opening of Western avenue, was a "shack town."

Officials of the Pacific Telephone Co. announced today that Dial Phones will be available in 1952 for Torrance barring unforeseen effect of the military situation on availability of materials and manufacturing facilities. Ground breaking ceremonies for a new building on the corner of Cravens and Engracia will be announced later.

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HOME ON A 100x100-ft. lot, only 1 block from Fern St. School in Torrance, for \$3750 full price! \$1400 down and \$27.50 per month will handle.

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Junking of Bus Lines Rumored

While retail merchants joined hands with residents of Harbor Hills, Lomita, Hollywood Riviera and other outlying sections in an effort to keep their bus service, rumors came out of the Municipal Bus Department that an effort is being made to make the lines so unpopular that they will have to be junked.

This shocking revelation has so stirred those who benefit most directly by the bus lines that a new demand for a change of management probably will be made upon the City Council.

The people, at the last election voted to keep the lines, by a majority of almost 10 to one. That ultimatum was to keep the lines as they are at present and to improve service, not curtail it, patrons of the buses declare. The vote was a further ultimatum to finance the deficit out of the general fund, if necessary.

With good management and good service, backed by a campaign to popularize the bus lines, they can be made to pay within a few months time, and the merchants of Torrance also will benefit.

Curtailed of the Hollywood Riviera line, which taps a grove (Continued on Page Two)

Early Freeway Start Favored By Military

Top military officers here favor an early start of construction at the Torrance-San Pedro end of the Harbor Freeway.

The State highway commission already has started clearing right-of-way at the northerly terminus in Los Angeles.

Ed Socolofsky told San Pedro Chamber of Commerce directors that Army, Navy, and Coast Guard officers will back the Chamber's proposal that work be started soon on the southerly terminus of the freeway.

Socolofsky, chairman of the Chamber's military affairs committee, said he had assurances of support from Capt. John Dannenberg, commander of the Navy's Terminal Island station; Lt. Col. Louis Springer of Fort MacArthur, and Capt. John Trebes of the Coast Guard.

Registration, Counseling Started at THS

Registration and counseling for new students entering Torrance High School was started last Monday, announced Principal John K. Steinbaugh.

The counseling will end September 1. Registration will continue until September 3 in the counseling office on the first floor of the main building.

The office is open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All new students are urged to come early.

Students coming up from city elementary schools are not required to participate in the preliminary counseling, said Steinbaugh.

Section 34.66 P.L.R. U. S. Postage Paid Torrance, Calif. Permit 17

Water Rate Slashed

A reduction of almost 10% in the tax rate of the Metropolitan Water District, on which City Manager George Stevens represents Torrance, was voted upon by the district board of directors for the year 1950-51.

The 1940-50 tax rate of 34 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation to 31 cents was approved by the board of directors, acting on a recommendation of its finance committee, headed by Herman Nelson of Glendale and A. W. McKinlay.

According to McKinlay, the controller, 26 cents of the 31 cents will be used to meet interest and principal payments on outstanding Colorado River Aqueduct bonds sold to finance the construction of the giant water supply system. The remaining 5 cents will be used to help pay operation and maintenance expenses and meet outstanding obligations with the Federal government.

Joseph Jensen, board chairman, pointed out that cities and areas in the Metropolitan Water District are not required to meet assessments made against them from taxes but may pay these charges from municipal water revenues.

Jensen cited Glendale, Pasadena, San Diego, and Chula Vista as district cities who levy no taxes to meet their Metropolitan Water District obligations but pay all these charges from their water and other revenues.

Ordered by the board was a 3 cents tax reduction, according to Jensen, although the district's payments to amortize outstanding Colorado River Aqueduct bonds will be considerably increased during the next year as compared to the current year.

ADDITIONAL WORK Additional office and field engineering work expenses will be incurred on a program of expanding the aqueduct distribution lines to member areas and to permit annexing of other sections.

City Disaster Council Awaits Federal Advice

Civilian Defense preparations await instructions from Sacramento.

City Manager George Stevens announced that the Torrance Disaster Council expects details for an atom bomb procedure from the federal government via Sacramento in September.

Division chiefs thus far named to the Disaster Council are: George Stevens, Commander; Mayor Bob L. Haggard, chairman; Chief of Police John Stroth, Law and Order; Chief Jake Banner, Fire; Assistant City Engineer John Patrick, and Street Supt. Ralph Perkins, Public Works; Water Supt. William Stanger, Utilities; Bus Supt. Marshall Chamberlain, Transportation; and A. B. Smith, Communication, Personnel and Recruitment, and Medical Division Chiefs have not as yet been named. Division Chief for the Red (Continued on Page Two)



CITY LIMITS? . . . Edith Pavin, Press reporter and club editor, stands beside the "Torrance City Limit" sign at 190th street and Western avenue, recently installed. The sign should be a mile north, at 174th street, a survey shows. (Press photo).

That City Limits Sign's the Limit

By WANDA ROUND

Who's kidding who? There has been a lot of it going on around Torrance during the past few weeks since an Automobile Club of Southern California sign was installed at 190th street and Western avenue stating that that point is the "city limits" of Torrance.

The Press was not satisfied when it saw the sign, and consulted a map of the famed road-marking organization which is the friend of every motorist. The Automobile Club map said that the city limits of Torrance is at 174th street on Western avenue, just about a mile north of 190th street.

We asked Chief of Police John Stroth about it, and he said that his jurisdiction over Western avenue starts at 190th street "by mutual agreement with the Los Angeles Police Department." (We presume he meant "traffic jurisdiction.")

But, City Manager George Stevens agrees that the city limits of Torrance on Western avenue is 174th street.

We went out to see some of the business people on Western avenue, and the Press finds that city licenses from Torrance are posted on the walls of those on the west side of Western avenue from 174th street south.

We saw a fire plug or two and found that they are maintained by Torrance Fire Department. They call Torrance police to preserve life, law and order.

We were convinced before. (Continued on Page Two)

INDUSTRY LOSES TO MILITARY

Torrance industry has suffered the loss of more than 26 men to the military service thus far.

Those from Columbia Steel Co. who have been called from Torrance, Lomita, and Harbor City are: Albert L. Bergin, Navy; Charles C. Touvel, Marine Corps; Glen E. Vandall, Army Air Corps; William McGhee, Army Air Corps; Eddie G. Cole, Army Air Corps; Robert Thom, National Guard; Leffel Poindexter, Navy; Charles L. Alberg, Navy; Virgil R. Cosgro, Navy; Kenneth D. Camp, National Guard; Bob Phippen, Army Air Corps; and Theodore Duncan, National Guard.

National Supply has lost to the armed forces Harry R. Burkholder, Stanley Van Orden, and Milton Younken; all Torrance men.

Also called to active duty is the 443rd Engineer Petroleum Distribution Company, sponsored by the General Petroleum Corp. This unit, under the affiliated unit plan of the Organized Reserve corps, has been called in by the U. S. Sixth army reserve group.

Capt. John Burnett, commander of the unit and a member of the General Petroleum refining department, said the group will probably leave for service during September for training at an undisclosed location.

General Petroleum men in the unit besides Capt. Burnett include H. W. Barham, M. J. Bourdon, C. H. Fannin, B. G. Kintner, S. S. Larson, P. L. Miller, Richard Rothschild, R. L. Schaeffer, C. E. White and P. N. White.

Local Dairy Held Up, \$5000 Taken

The headquarters of a local dairy was held up Monday night by a lone bandit, who escaped with about \$4000 in cash and \$1000 in checks.

Ralph C. Voges, 34, manager of the dairy, said a young, nattily dressed man "came to the building, which serves as an office and living quarters, at 3400 Del Amo Street, about 8 p. m. After making an inquiry he pulled an automatic pistol and forced his way inside.

Threatening Voges, he forced the victim to turn over several cloth bags containing dairy receipts. After warning Voges not to call the police, the bandit made his escape in a waiting car.

Latest estimations say that the total loot was around \$5000.



SCHOOL DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN . . . First to register of the new students for the coming semester at Torrance High School are Thomas Webb (left), of 1003 Cota avenue and Charles Babbitt (center) of 1416 Crenshaw, Boys Adviser Ivan Malm takes down registration data.

—Photo by Photo Arts Studio

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